Increase in the prices °f newspapers

667. SHRI RAMACHANDRA. BHARDWAJ; DR. H. P. SHARMA: SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of different daily newspapers have been increased during the past three months; if so, the newspaper-wise details of tho increase in prices; and

(b) what are the reasons for the increase, indicating the cost analysis showing production and distribution cost, taxes and excise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRl V. N. GADGIL); (a) N_0 such data is maintained by the Government.

Ob) The increase has been generally attributed by the newspaper$_s$ concerned to the rising cost of production and operations.

Subsidy to J & K Government

668. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is $_a$ fact that the Ceritre is giving subsidies t_0 Jammu and Kashmir Government to augment its rural drinking water and rural electrification schemes; and

Ob) if so, the amount of funds allocated during the year 1984-85 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The Central Govt, assists the States/ U.Ts including J&K, in providing safe drinking water in rural areas under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARP). During the year 1984-83, a sum of Rs. 1806.56 lakhs was released t_0 J&K Govt, under the ARP and Rs. 10f) lakh$_s$ under the new in centive scheme for good performance in implementation of rural drinking water supply programme.

During JR84-85, Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC) has approved 12 Rural Electrification Schemes for a loan assistance of Rs. 348 lakhg for intensive electrification of 311 villages in J&K and has disbursed an amount of Rs. 259 lakhs for implementation of the ongoing Rural Electrification Schemes to the J & K Govt.

Fire in Bhimbargarh TV relay station

669. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some months ago fire broke out in T.V. Re lay Station at Bhimbargarh resulting in los.? of machinery;

(b) il so, what was the cause of the fire: and

(c) what was the estimated loss and tho delay in the commissioning of the relay station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINTSTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRl V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The local police, on the basis of investigation conducted so far, is of the opinion that it could be a case of accidental lire duc to negligence on the part of local labour.

(c) Spare components costing about Rs. 7.650/- are estimated to have been damaged in fire. This will not, how ever, cause any delay to the commis sioning of the high power TV trans mitter at Poonch. According to pre sent estimates, the commissioning o* the transmitter at full power is likely to function from middle of 1986.